

CLAIMS

1. An automatic shifter face plate assembly for a shift rod projectable through an opening in a floor console for a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a top plate having a first slot through which the shifter rod is projectable;

5 and

an intermediary plate supporting said top plate; said top plate being horizontally floatable with said intermediary plate laterally and horizontally floatable longitudinally with respect to said intermediary plate to align the top plate with the opening in the floor console; and

10 an eccentric cone relatively slidable and rotatably supported on the shifter rod to accommodate the shifter rod in the top plate slot.

2. An adjustable instrument panel arrangement for accommodating the build variations of a vehicle floor comprising:

5 a fixed panel portion extendable transversely between the sides of the vehicle;

a pivotable portion adapted to contain a vehicle option and including a floor console pivotable with respect to said fixed panel portion and adjustably suspendable from said fixed panel portion to the vehicle floor;

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said floor console having a console opening and extendable rearwardly longitudinally along the vehicle floor when the pivotable portion is adjustably suspended at the vehicle floor, and further comprising:

15 an automatic shifter face plate assembly for a shifter rod projectable through the floor console opening, said face plate assembly including a top plate having a first opening through which the shifter rod is projectable; and

an intermediary plate supporting said top plate and being laterally shiftable
20 with respect to the floor console to align the top plate with said console opening in one
manner, and said top plate being longitudinally shiftable with respect to said intermediary
plate to align said top plate with said console opening in another manner; and

an eccentric cone relatively slidably and rotatably supported on the shifter
25 rod to accommodate the shifter rod in said first opening of the top plate after the
intermediary plate has been laterally shifted with respect to said floor console.

3. A shifter face plate assembly for a shifter rod and a shifter rod
support in a floor console having a console opening comprising:

a top plate through which the shifter rod projects and having a window;
5 and

an intermediary plate supporting the top plate;

said top plate being shiftable longitudinally with respect to the
10 intermediary plate and shiftable laterally with said intermediary plate to position the top
plate aesthetically within the console opening.

4. The shifter plate assembly of claim 3 including the shifter rod and
an eccentric cone relatively slidable and rotatable on the shifter rod.

5. The shifter plate assembly of claim 3 including an anti-rattle tab
biasingly extending between the top plate and the intermediary plate to resist relative
movement between the plates.

6. The shifter face plate assembly of claim 3 wherein shiftable
longitudinally includes an adjustment slot on one of said top plate and said intermediary
plate and a guide tab on the other of said top plate and said intermediary plate..

7. The shifter face plate assembly of claim 3 wherein shiftable laterally includes an adjustment slot on one of said intermediary plate and the shifter rod support and a boss on the other of said intermediary plate and the shifter rod support.

8. A method of adjusting a shifter face plate assembly having a top plate and an intermediary plate to the shifter rod base in the opening of a floor console on a vehicle floor subject to floor build variations comprising:

5 adjustably affixing the floor console and the shifter rod base to the vehicle floor;

relatively movably connecting the top plate to the intermediary plate;

10 installing the connected top plate and intermediary plate for movement with respect to the shifter rod base;

laterally moving the intermediary plate with respect to the shifter rod base to align the top plate laterally with respect to the opening in the floor console; and

15 longitudinally moving the top plate with respect to the intermediary plate to align the top plate longitudinally with respect to the opening in the floor console.